Ordinary Cats

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five mezzotints

There are no ordinary cats.

Colette

I am not a friend, & I am not a servant.
I am the Cat who walks by himself.

Rudyard Kipling

The only mystery about the cat is why it ever decided to become a domestic animal.

Sir Compton Mackenzie

Unfussy lodger, she knows what she wants
& gets it:
Food, cushions, fires, the run of the garden.
I, her night porter in the small hours,
Don't bother to grumble, grimly let her in.

Michael Hamburger

The cat, of course, never breaks a rule. If it does not follow precedent, that simply means it has created a new rule & it is up to you to learn it . . .

Sidney Denham

She comes to me freely or not at all
Our little cat. And when she does, creates
Mutual contentment in my lap.

If I pick her up against her will
I'll find a mild resistance denoting
She has Other Business on her mind

And, shutters closed behind her eyes,
Her level stare implies that I may hold her
But I cannot reach her where she is.

Shirley Jones

The smallest feline is a masterpiece.

Leonardo da Vinci

Even overweight cats instinctively know the cardinal rule: when fat, arrange yourself in slim poses.

John Weitz

Tobermory looked squarely at her for a moment & then fixed his gaze serenely on the middle distance. It was obvious that boring questions lay outside his scheme of life.

Saki

Our cat
is the greatest thing on four legs
since Fred Astaire & Ginger Rogers.

Gavin Ewart

The cat is never vulgar.

Carl Van Vechten

Cats sleep fat.
They spread comfort beneath them
Like a good mat,
As if they picked the place
And then sat.
You walk around one
As if he were the City Hall
After that.

Rosalie Moore

Ajax — the sleeping warrior

This is number *of twelve*
suites of five large mezzotints &
one miniature by Shirley Jones. *Her*
poem & selected texts were set & printed by
her, in 24 point Baskerville italic, on
Rives mouldmade paper, at the
Red Hen Press *1992*

17/70

The Parvenu

Shirley Jones '92

12/10

What bird?

Shirley Jones '92

12/10

The Riposte

Shirley Jones '92

17/10

Metropolitan on safari

Shirley Jones '92

12/50

Mine!

Shirley Jones 92